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# 1/0 COMPLEXITY: THE RED-BLUE PEBBLE GAME

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## ABSTRACT

In this paper, the *red-blue pebble game* is proposed to model the input-output complexity of algorithms. Using the pebble game formulation, a number of lower bound results for the I/O requirement are proven. For example, it is shown that to perform the  $n$ -point FFT (or the ordinary  $n \times n$  matrix multiplication algorithm) with a device of  $O(S)$  memory, at least  $\Omega(n \log n / \log S)$  (or  $\Omega(n^3 / \sqrt{S})$ , respectively) time is needed for the I/O. Similar results are obtained for algorithms for several other problems. All of the lower bounds presented are the best possible in the sense that they are achievable by certain decomposition schemes.

The results in this paper provide insight into the difficult task of balancing I/O and computation in special-purpose system design. For example, for the  $n$ -point FFT, the I/O lower bound implies that an  $S$ -point device achieving a speed-up ratio  $O(\log S)$  over the conventional  $O(n \log n)$  implementation is all that one can hope for.

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## 1. Introduction

When a large computation is performed on a small device or memory, the computation must be decomposed into subcomputations. Executing subcomputations one at a time may require a substantial amount of I/O to store or retrieve intermediate results. Very often it is the I/O that dominates the speed of a computation. In fact, I/O is a typical bottleneck for performance at all levels of a computer system. However, to the authors' knowledge the I/O problem was not previously modelled or studied in any systematic or abstract manner. Similar problems were studied only in a few isolated instances [2, 5]. This paper proposes a pebble game, called the *red-blue pebble game*, to model the problem, and presents a number of lower bound results for the I/O requirement. All the lower bounds presented can be shown to be the best possible, in the sense that they are achieved by certain decomposition schemes. The paper is organized according to the techniques used to derive these lower bounds.

In Section 2 we formally define the pebble game and point out its relation to the I/O problem. In Section 3 we show that lower bounds for I/O in the pebble game can be established by studying the so-called *S-partitioning problem*. This is the key result of the paper in the sense that it provides the basis for the derivation of all the lower bounds. In Section 4 we prove a lower bound for the FFT algorithm. Lower bounds in Section 5 are based on the *information speed function*, which measures how fast the number of vertices on which a given vertex "depends" can grow in a directed acyclic graph of a certain type. We demonstrate the dramatic difference between the I/O requirement for the odd-even transposition sorting network and that for the "snake-like" mesh graph. In contrast to the focus of Section 5, Section 6 studies *independent computations* for which there are very little information exchanges among vertices. There we obtain, for example, a lower bound for the ordinary matrix multiplication algorithm. In Section 7 we prove a general theorem on products of graphs. Using this theorem, one can determine the I/O required by a product of graphs, by examining only the individual graphs. A summary and concluding remarks are provided in Section 8.

Results of this paper impose upper bounds on the maximum possible speed-up obtainable with a special-purpose hardware device when the bandwidth of the memory that supplies data to the device remains constant. For example, our lower bound on the I/O requirement for the  $n$ -point FFT (Corollary 4.1) implies that an  $S$ -point device can achieve a speed-up ratio of at most  $O(\log S)$  over the conventional  $O(n \log n)$  software implementation. Similarly, for matrix multiplication our result (Corollary 6.2) implies that a  $\sqrt{S} \times \sqrt{S}$  device can achieve a speed-up ratio of at most  $O(\sqrt{S})$ .

## 2. The Red-Blue Pebble Game and Its Relation to the I/O Problem

As the usual pebble game (see, e.g., [4]), the red-blue pebble game is played on a directed acyclic graph<sup>1</sup>. At any point in the pebble game, some vertices of the graph will have red pebbles, some will have blue pebbles, some will have both red and blue pebbles and the remainder will have no pebbles at all. Following the notation of Pippenger [8], define a *configuration* as a pair of subsets of the vertices, one comprised of just the vertices having red pebbles, and the other just those having blue pebbles. Thus vertices belonging to the intersection of the two sets have both red and blue pebbles on them. The set of *inputs* (or *outputs*) of the graph is some designated set of vertices containing at least those vertices that have no predecessors (or successors, respectively). We assume that the set of inputs is disjoint from that of outputs. For all the examples discussed in the paper, only vertices that have no predecessors (or successors) are assumed to be inputs (or outputs, respectively), except in Section 7 where products of graphs are considered. The *initial* (or *terminal*) configuration is one in which only inputs (or outputs, respectively) have pebbles, and they are all blue pebbles. The rules of the red-blue pebble game are as follows.

R1. (Input) A red pebble may be placed on any vertex that has a blue pebble.

R2. (Output) A blue pebble may be placed on any vertex that has a red pebble.

R3. (Compute) If all the immediate predecessors of a vertex have red pebbles, a red pebble may be placed on that vertex.

R4. (Delete) A pebble (red or blue) may be removed from any vertex.

A *transition* is an ordered pair of configurations, the second of which follows from the first according to one of the rules. A *calculation* is a sequence of configurations, each successive pair of which form a transition. A *complete* calculation is one that begins with the initial configuration and ends with the terminal configuration.

A graph on which the red-blue pebble game is played can model a computation performed on a two-level memory structure, consisting of say, a *fast* memory and a *slow* memory. Vertices represent operations and their results. An edge from one vertex to another indicates that the result of one operation is an operand of the other. An operation can be performed only if all the operands reside in the fast memory. Placing a red pebble using rule R3 corresponds to performing an operation and storing the result in the fast memory. Placing a blue pebble using rule R2 corresponds to storing a copy of a result (currently in the fast memory) into the slow memory, whereas placing a red pebble using R1 corresponds to retrieving a copy of a result (currently in the slow memory) into the fast memory. Removing a red or blue pebble using rule R4 means freeing a memory location in the fast or slow memory, respectively. The maximum allowable number of red

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<sup>1</sup>The red-blue pebble game discussed in this paper is not related in any way to the black-and-white pebble game introduced by Cook and Sethi [1].

or blue pebbles on the graph at any point in the game corresponds to the number of words available for use in the fast or slow memory, respectively.

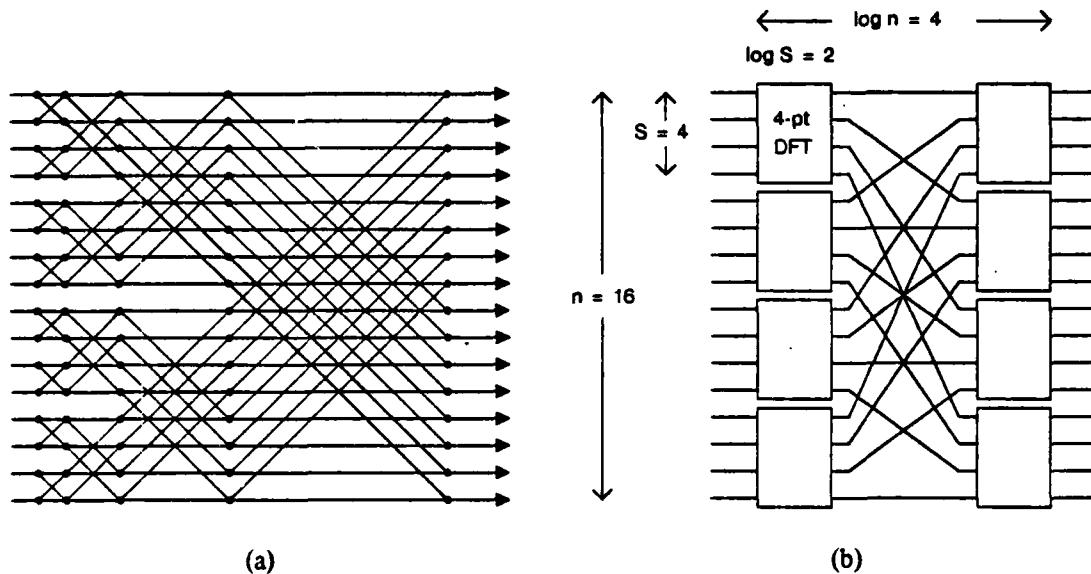
For the purpose of this paper, we assume that the fast memory can hold only  $S$  words, where  $S$  is a constant, while the slow memory is arbitrarily large. Thus when the pebble game is played on a graph, at most  $S$  red pebbles, and any number of blue pebbles, can be on the graph at any time. For any given graph, we are interested in the minimum *I/O time*  $Q$ , which is defined by

$Q$  = the minimum number of transitions according to rule R1 or R2 required by any complete calculation.

For the FFT graph, it is not difficult to prove the following upper bound on  $Q$  by the decomposition scheme illustrated in Figure 2-1<sup>2</sup>.

**Theorem 2.1.** For the  $n$ -point FFT graph,

$$Q \cdot \log S = O(n \log n).$$



**Figure 2-1:** (a) the 16-point FFT graph, and (b) decomposing the FFT graph, with  $n = 16$  and  $S = 4$ .

However, for proving tight lower bounds on  $Q$ , we found that it was difficult to work with the red-blue pebble game directly. Instead we study the *S-partitioning problem*, which is a "static" problem in the sense

<sup>2</sup>All logarithms used in this paper are to base 2.

that it does not apply rules on-the-fly as in a game. We show that lower bounds for the  $S$ -partitioning problem can be translated into lower bounds on  $Q$  for the red-blue pebble game.

### 3. The $S$ -Partitioning Problem and the Key Lemma

In this section we show that every complete calculation of the red-blue pebble game on a directed acyclic graph defines a partition of the graph. Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a directed acyclic graph where  $V$  and  $E$  are the vertex and edge sets of  $G$ , respectively. A family of subsets of  $V$ ,  $\{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_h\}$ , is called an  $S$ -partition of  $G$  for some positive integer  $S$  if the following four properties hold.

- P1. The  $V_i$ 's are disjoint and  $\bigcup_{i=1}^h V_i = V$ .
- P2. For each  $V_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq h$ , there exists a *dominator set*  $D_i$  for  $V_i$  that contains at most  $S$  vertices. (A dominator set for  $V_i$  is defined to be a set of vertices in  $V$  such that every path from an input of  $G$  to a vertex in  $V_i$  contains some vertex in the set.)
- P3. For each  $V_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq h$ , the *minimum set*  $M_i$  of  $V_i$  has at most  $S$  vertices. (The minimum set of  $V_i$  is defined to be the set of those vertices in  $V_i$  that do not have any sons belonging to  $V_i$ .)
- P4. There is no cyclic dependence among vertex sets in  $\{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_h\}$ . (A vertex set  $V_i$  is said to *depend* on another vertex set  $V_j$  if there is an edge in  $E$  from a vertex in  $V_j$  to a vertex in  $V_i$ .)

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a directed acyclic graph. Any complete calculation of the red-blue pebble game on  $G$ , using at most  $S$  red pebbles, is associated with a  $2S$ -partition of  $G$  such that

$$S \cdot h \geq q \geq S \cdot (h - 1),$$

where  $q$  is the I/O time required by the complete calculation, and  $h$  is the number of vertex sets in the  $2S$ -partition.

**Proof:** Denote by  $C$  any complete calculation. We can divide  $C$  into a sequence of  $h$  consecutive *subcalculations*,  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_h$ , for some  $h$  such that in each  $C_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq h-1$ , there are exactly  $S$  transitions using rule R1 or R2, and in  $C_h$  there are no more than  $S$  such transitions. For  $i = 1, \dots, h$ , define  $V_i$  to be the largest vertex set in which each vertex satisfies the following three properties.

- (i) During subcalculation  $C_i$  it has a red pebble placed on it using rule R1 or R3.
- (ii) At the end of subcalculation  $C_i$ , it either has red pebbles, or blue pebbles that are placed on it during  $C_i$ , or has a son in  $V_i$ .
- (iii) It does not belong to any  $V_j$  with  $j < i$ .

We claim that the family  $\{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_h\}$  is a  $2S$ -partition of  $G$ . First we show that property P1 holds. By (iii) it follows immediately that the  $V_i$ 's are disjoint. In the following we show that every vertex in  $V$  belongs to some  $V_i$ . Suppose that a vertex, which is not an input, has a red or blue pebble on it at the end of some subcalculation  $C_i$ . Then there must exist a subcalculation  $C_j$ ,  $j \leq i$ , during which the vertex has a red pebble placed on it using rule R3, and at the end of  $C_j$  it either remains to have the red pebble or has a blue pebble that is placed on it during  $C_j$ . This implies

that the vertex belongs to  $V_k$  for some  $k \leq j$ . Similarly one can show that if an input has a red pebble on it at the end of  $C_i$ , then it must belong to  $V_k$  for some  $k \leq i$ . Because calculation  $C$  is a complete calculation, all outputs have blue pebbles on them at the end of the last subcalculation  $C_h$ ; thus they all belong to  $\bigcup_{i=1}^h V_i$ . Consider now any immediate predecessor  $u$  of an output  $v$ . Suppose that  $v$  belongs to  $V_i$ . Then  $v$  cannot have any pebble on it at the beginning of  $C_i$  and thus must have a red pebble placed on it using R3 during  $C_i$ . This implies that we have one of the following two cases:

Case 1: Vertex  $u$  has a red pebble on it at the end of subcalculation  $C_{i-1}$ . Then by reasons stated above,  $u$  belongs to some  $V_j, j \leq i-1$ .

Case 2: Vertex  $u$  has a red pebble placed on it using rule R1 or R3 during  $C_i$ . If  $u$  does not belong to any  $V_j$  with  $j < i$ , then because  $u$  has a son  $v$  in  $V_i$ ,  $u$  itself must belong to  $V_i$ .

We have shown that all the immediate predecessors of outputs belong to  $\bigcup_{i=1}^h V_i$ . Similarly, we can show that all the immediate predecessors of the immediate predecessors of outputs belong to  $\bigcup_{i=1}^h V_i$ . Property P1 follows by induction. Note that both Case 1 and Case 2 above imply that if  $V_i$  depends on  $V_j$  then  $j < i$ . Therefore there cannot be any cyclic dependence among  $V_i$ 's, and thus property P4 holds. For proving property P2 for any  $V_i, 1 \leq i \leq h$ , we consider two subsets of  $V$ ,  $V_R$  and  $V_{BR}$ , which are defined as follows.

- $V_R$  consists of those vertices that have red pebbles placed on them just before subcalculation  $C_i$  begins.
- $V_{BR}$  consists of those vertices that have blue pebbles placed on them just before subcalculation  $C_i$  begins and have red pebbles placed on them according to rule R1 during  $C_i$ .

It is easy to see that by property (i) in the definition of  $V_i$ ,  $V_R \cup V_{BR}$  forms a dominator set for  $V_i$ . Since there can be at most  $S$  red pebbles on  $G$  at any time, we have

$$|V_R| \leq S.$$

The fact that at most  $S$  transitions can use rule R1 during  $C_i$  implies that

$$|V_{BR}| \leq S.$$

Thus

$$|V_R \cup V_{BR}| \leq |V_R| + |V_{BR}| \leq 2S.$$

We have shown that  $\{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_h\}$  satisfies property P2. The proof of property P3 is similar. By property (ii) in the definition of  $V_i$ , we know that at the end of subcalculation  $C_i$ , every vertex in  $M_i$ , the minimum set of  $V_i$ , has red pebbles, or blue pebbles that are placed on it during  $C_i$ . Since there can be at most  $S$  vertices having red pebbles placed on them at any time, and at most  $S$  vertices having blue pebbles placed on them according to rule R2 during  $C_i$ , the minimum set  $M_i$  can have at most  $2S$  vertices. We have shown that  $\{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_h\}$  is a  $2S$ -partition of  $G$ . The theorem follows by noting that corresponding to each  $V_i, 1 \leq i \leq h-1$ , exactly  $S$  transitions using R1 or R2 are performed and to  $V_h$ , no more than  $S$  such transitions are performed.  $\square$

Let

$P(S)$  = the minimum number of vertex sets that any  $S$ -partition of  $G$  must have.

We have, by Theorem 3.1, the key lemma of the paper.

**Lemma 3.1.** For any directed acyclic graph  $G$ , the minimum I/O time satisfies

$$Q \geq S \cdot (P(2S) - 1).$$

Using this lemma, lower bounds for  $P$  can be translated immediately into lower bounds for  $Q$ .

#### 4. Lower Bounds for the FFT Computation

In this section we establish a lower bound on the minimum I/O time  $Q$  for the  $n$ -point FFT graph (see Figure 2-1(a)), by proving a lower bound on  $P$ .

Define an *S-dominator partition* of a graph  $G = (V, E)$  to be a family of subsets of  $V$ ,  $\{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_h\}$ , satisfying properties P1, P2 and P4 of an  $S$ -partition, but not necessarily property P3. Let

$P_D(S)$  = the minimum number of vertex sets that any  $S$ -dominator partition of  $G$  must have.

Then clearly  $P_D(S) \leq P(S)$ , since any  $S$ -partition is also an  $S$ -dominator partition. The following theorem establishes a lower bound on  $P_D(S)$ , and thus a lower bound on  $P(S)$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** Suppose that  $S \geq 2$ . The minimum number of vertex sets that any  $S$ -dominator partition of the  $n$ -point FFT graph must have satisfies

$$P_D(S) = \Omega((n \log n)/(S \log S)).$$

**Proof:** Since there are a total of  $\Theta(n \log n)$  vertices in the  $n$ -point FFT graph, it suffices to prove that any vertex set  $U$  that has a dominator set of size no more than  $S$ ,  $S \leq n$ , can have at most  $S \log S + S$  vertices. We shall show this by induction on  $n$ . The assertion holds trivially for the case when  $n = 2$ . Assume now that it holds for the  $m$ -point FFT for any  $m < n$ . We want to show that it holds for  $m = n$ . Consider the  $n$ -point FFT graph. We partition its vertex set into four disjoint sets  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$  and  $D$  such that sets  $C$  and  $D$  equally partition the set of outputs, and sets  $A$  and  $B$  equally separate the rest of the vertices. See Figure 4-1 below. Let  $d_A$ ,  $d_B$ ,  $d_C$  or  $d_D$  be the number of elements in the dominator set that belong to sets  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$  or  $D$  respectively. Let  $u_A$ ,  $u_B$ ,  $u_C$  or  $u_D$  be the number of elements in the vertex set  $U$  that belong to sets  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$  or  $D$ , respectively. It is easy to see that elements in set  $A$  that are also in the dominator set form a dominator set for set  $U \cap A$ . Thus by the induction hypothesis,

$$u_A \leq d_A \log d_A + d_A. \quad (1)$$

Similarly, we have

$$u_B \leq d_B \log d_B + d_B. \quad (2)$$

Let  $R_A$  or  $R_B$  be the set of those horizontal paths from inputs to outputs on which there are vertices in the dominator set that belong to  $A$  or  $B$ , respectively. Then

$$|R_A| \leq d_A \text{ and } |R_B| \leq d_B. \quad (3)$$

For each vertex in  $U \cap C$  or  $U \cap D$ , it either belongs to the dominator set or one of its immediate predecessors is on a horizontal path belonging to  $R_A$  and the other on one belonging to  $R_B$ . Therefore

$$u_C \leq d_C + \min(|R_A|, |R_B|) \text{ and } u_D \leq d_D + \min(|R_A|, |R_B|),$$

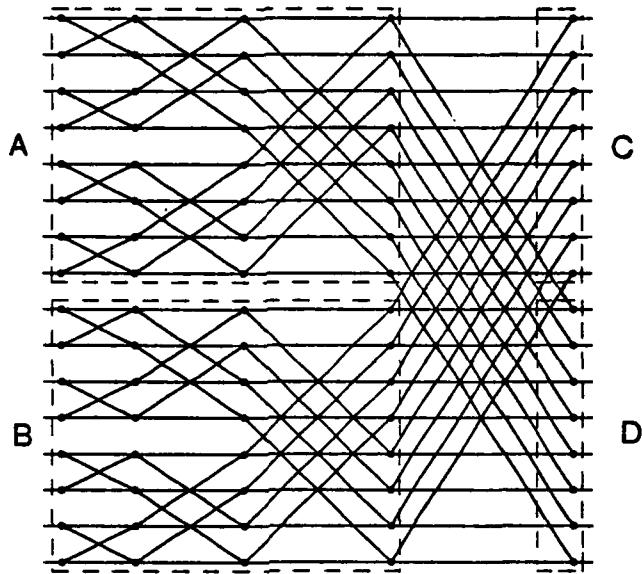


Figure 4-1: Partitioning the FFT graph for the induction proof.

from which we have

$$u_C + u_D \leq d_C + d_D + 2\min(|R_A|, |R_B|). \quad (4)$$

By (1), (2), (3) and (4),

$$u_A + u_B + u_C + u_D \leq [d_A \log d_A + d_B \log d_B + 2\min(d_A, d_B)] + d_A + d_B + d_C + d_D.$$

Since  $d_A + d_B \leq S - d_C - d_D$ , we have

$$u_A + u_B + u_C + u_D \leq (S - d_C - d_D) \log (S - d_C - d_D) + S \leq S \log S + S,$$

which completes the induction proof.  $\square$

By Lemma 3.1 we have the following lower bound result.

**Corollary 4.1.** For the  $n$ -point FFT graph,

$$Q \cdot \log S = \Omega(n \log n).$$

Thus the I/O time for the  $n$ -point FFT when executed on a special-purpose device with  $S$  words of memory is at least  $\Omega(n \log n / \log S)$ , implying that the maximum-possible speed-up ratio over the usual  $O(n \log n)$  implementation is at most  $O(\log S)$ . This upper bound on the speed-up ratio holds no matter how fast the device may be, since it is a consequence of the I/O consideration. The upper bound can be reduced only if the bandwidth of the memory that supplies data to the special-purpose device is increased. A systolic device that distributes  $S$  words of memory in a linear processor array and achieves  $\Theta(\log S)$  speed-up for the FFT is described by Kung [7].

## 5. Lower Bounds Based on Information Speed Functions

Many "regular" graphs  $G = (V, E)$  have the property that all inputs can reach all outputs through vertex-disjoint paths. In the proof of Theorem 4.1 we have already noted that the FFT graph has this property. In the current section, this type of graph will be considered. The vertex-disjoint paths from inputs to outputs will be called *lines*, for simplicity. We say that the *information speed function* is  $\Omega(F(d))$  if for any two vertices  $u, v$  on the same line that are  $d$  apart, there are at least  $F(d)$  vertices in the graph satisfying the following two properties.

F1. At most one of these vertices can belong to a single line.

F2. Each of these vertices belongs to a path connecting  $u$  and  $v$ .

The following theorem shows that lower bounds on  $Q$  can be obtained from lower bounds on  $F$  or upper bounds on  $F^{-1}$ .

**Theorem 5.1.** For any graph where all inputs can reach all outputs through vertex-disjoint paths, if the information speed function is  $\Omega(F(d))$  where  $F$  is monotonically increasing and  $F^{-1}$  exists, then

$$Q \cdot F^{-1}(S) = \Omega(L),$$

where  $L$  is the total number of vertices on the vertex-disjoint paths or the lines.

**Proof:** As in the proof of Theorem 4.1, we will establish

$$P_D(S) = \Omega(L / (S \cdot F^{-1}(S)))$$

by showing that any vertex set  $U$  in a  $S$ -dominator partition can have at most  $O(S \cdot F^{-1}(S))$  vertices on the lines. Note that vertices in  $U$  can be on at most  $S$  lines, since the lines are vertex-disjoint and  $U$  has a dominator set of size at most  $S$ . The theorem follows from the claim that on any line there can be at most  $F^{-1}(S) + 1$  vertices in  $U$ . Suppose that the claim is false for some line. Then on this line there are two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  in  $U$  that are  $F^{-1}(S) + 1$  apart. Consequently, there are  $F(F^{-1}(S) + 1)$  vertices satisfying properties F1 and F2. If any of these vertices belongs to another vertex set  $U'$  in the  $S$ -dominator partition, then by property F2 there will be a cyclic dependence among vertex sets in the  $S$ -dominator partition, violating property P4 in Section 3. Therefore all of these  $F(F^{-1}(S) + 1)$  vertices, which form a set of more than  $S$  vertices, belong to  $U$ , and by property F1 they belong to distinct lines. This is a contradiction, since vertices in  $U$  can be on at most  $S$  lines.  $\square$

**Corollary 5.1.** For the odd-even transposition sorting network (see, e.g., [6]) for sorting  $n$ -element runs,

$$Q \cdot S = \Omega(n^2),$$

for any  $S < n$ .

**Proof:** Consider the sub-network that includes only half of the inputs and outputs, as shown in Figure 5-1. It is easy to see that we can assume the sub-network has  $n/2$  lines with  $L = \Theta(n^2)$  and  $F(d) = d/2$  for  $d \leq n$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 5.2.** For the  $mxn$  snake-like directed mesh as shown in Figure 5-2,

$$Q = \Omega(mn),$$

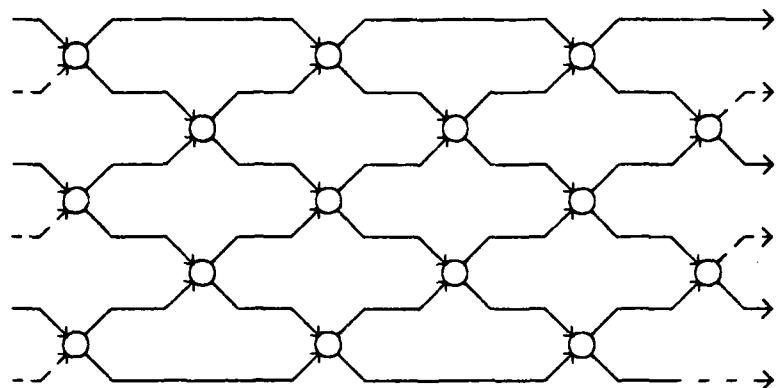


Figure 5-1: The odd-even transposition sorting network, where each "o" is a comparator.

for any  $S < m$ .

**Proof:** Consider as lines all the horizontal vertex-disjoint paths from inputs to outputs. It is easy to see that we can assume  $F(d) = m$  for any  $d \geq 2$ . Let  $U$  be any vertex set in an  $S$ -dominator partition of the graph. As in the proof of Theorem 5.1, we note that vertices in  $U$  can be on at most  $S$  lines, and that on any line there can be at most two vertices in  $U$ . Therefore,  $U$  can have at most  $O(S)$  vertices, and thus  $P_D(S)$  (or  $P(S)$ ) =  $\Omega(mn/S)$ . The corollary follows from Lemma 3.1.  $\square$

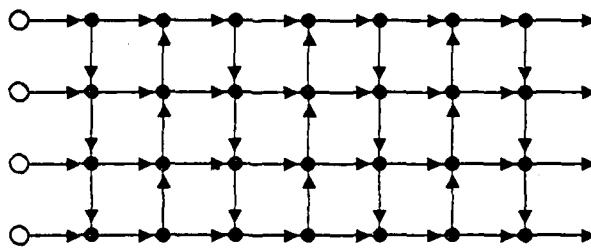


Figure 5-2: The snake-like directed mesh.

Straightforward decomposition schemes will show that lower bounds in the above corollaries are best possible. We note that when  $S$  increases the I/O requirement  $Q$  for the odd-even transposition sorting network decreases at the rate of  $1/S$ , whereas that for the snake-like directed mesh remains unchanged essentially. We say that graphs like the latter are *indecomposable*.

## 6. Independent Evaluation of Multivariate Expressions

Given values for indeterminates  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , the problem is to evaluate multivariate polynomial expressions  $y_i = y_i(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ . Assume that each  $y_i$  is a sum of at least two terms and in each  $y_i$  all the terms are distinct and have degrees  $\leq D$ . An example of such a problem is matrix multiplication, where  $D = 2$ . An *independent evaluation* of  $y_i$ 's is an algorithm or a directed acyclic graph with inputs  $x_i$ 's and outputs  $y_i$ 's satisfying the following properties.

- E1. In the evaluation of each  $y_i$ , all (and only) those product terms which appear in the fully distributed expression of  $y_i$  are computed first by multiplications, and then using these product terms  $y_i$  is formed through a *summation tree* by additions or subtractions only. In particular, no multiplication can be performed after an addition or subtraction.
- E2. Internal vertex sets of the summation trees for all the  $y_i$ 's are disjoint from each other, that is, none of the internal vertices in one tree appears as an internal vertex in another. (Thus, evaluations of  $y_i$ 's are *independent* from each other.)

Let  $X$  be any set of  $x_i$ 's or products in  $x_i$ 's. For any output  $y_i$ , define  $h(y_i, X)$  as the number of terms in  $y_i$  that can be obtained from  $X$  directly or by multiplying elements in  $X$ . For any  $Y \subseteq \{y_1, \dots, y_m\}$  we further define

$$h(Y, X) = \sum_{y \in Y} h(y, X).$$

For example, if  $y_1 = x_1 x_2 + x_3^2 x_1$ ,  $y_2 = x_1^2 x_2^2 + x_1 x_3^4$ ,  $Y = \{y_1, y_2\}$ , and  $X = \{x_1, x_2^2, x_3^2\}$ , then  $h(y_1, X) = 1$ ,  $h(y_2, X) = 2$ , and  $h(Y, X) = 3$ . Define the *S-combination number* to be

$$H(S) = \max\{h(Y, X) \mid |Y| \leq S, |X| \leq S\}.$$

We have the following result.

**Theorem 6.1.** Suppose that  $H(S) = \Omega(S)$ . Then for any independent evaluation of a multivariate expression of degree  $\leq D$ ,

$$Q \cdot D \cdot H(S)/S = \Omega(|V|),$$

where  $|V|$  is the total number of vertices in the graph corresponding to the independent evaluation.

**Proof:** Let  $\{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_h\}$  be an  $S$ -partition of the graph associated with the independent evaluation. We shall prove the following.

- (i) Each  $V_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq h$ , can have at most  $H(S) + 2S$  *internal vertices*. (An internal vertex is defined to be a vertex belonging to the internal vertex set of some summation tree.)
- (ii) There are at least  $|V|/(2D)$  internal vertices in the graph.

By property P3 in the definition of  $S$ -partition, the minimum set of  $V_i$  has at most  $S$  vertices. This implies that  $V_i$  can have nonempty intersections with internal vertex sets of at most  $S$  summation trees, since by E2 each of such intersections has at least one distinct vertex in the minimum set. Thus, to bound the number of internal vertices that  $V_i$  can have, we need only consider summation trees for  $S y_i$ 's. By property P2 of  $S$ -partition, we note that  $V_i$  has a dominator

set  $D_i$  of size no more than  $S$ . By the definition of  $H(S)$ , from  $D_i$  one can form at most  $H(S)$  terms appearing in the  $S$   $y_i$ 's. These terms, together with possible vertices in  $D_i$  that are already internal vertices, can generate at most  $H(S) + 2S$  internal vertices. We have shown (i). To prove (ii), let  $A$  be the total number of internal vertices in the graph corresponding to the independent evaluation. Then the total number of external vertices, or terms, in all the summation trees, is no greater than  $2A$ . Each product term requires at most  $D - 1$  multiplications; thus the total number of vertices  $|V|$  in the graph satisfies:

$$|V| \leq 2A(D - 1) + A \leq 2AD.$$

This proves (ii). It follows from (i) and (ii) that

$$h \geq (|V|/2D) / (H(S) + 2S),$$

and by Lemma 3.1,

$$Q = \Omega(S \cdot |V| / (D \cdot (H(2S) + 2S))).$$

The theorem follows from the assumption that  $H(S) = \Omega(S)$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 6.1.** For the ordinary matrix-vector multiplication algorithm for multiplying an  $m \times n$  matrix with an  $n$ -vector,

$$Q \cdot S = \Omega(mn),$$

assuming that entries in the matrix can be generated on-the-fly and thus are not required to be input.

**Proof:** The corollary follows immediately by noting that  $H(S) = \Theta(S^2)$  and  $D = 1$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 6.1.** For matrix-matrix multiplication,

$$H(S) = \Theta(S^{3/2}).$$

**Proof:** We shall only prove  $H(S) = O(S^{3/2})$ , since it is trivial to see  $H(S) = \Omega(S^{3/2})$ . Consider the matrix multiplication,  $AB = C$ . Let  $W$  be any set of entries in  $A$  and  $B$ , with  $|W| \leq S$ . Partition  $A$  into two classes as follows. Class  $A_d$  consists of all rows in  $A$ , each of which has at least  $\sqrt{S}$  entries in  $W$ , and class  $A'_d$  consists of the rest of rows in  $A$ . Accordingly, matrix  $C$  is partitioned into two classes,  $A_d B$  and  $A'_d B$ . Since  $A_d$  can have at most  $\sqrt{S}$  rows, and since in any row of  $A_d B$  an entry in  $B$  can appear at most once (and  $B$  has no more than  $S$  entries in  $W$ ), the maximum number of terms in  $A_d B$  that can be obtained by multiplying elements in  $W$  is at most  $S \cdot \sqrt{S} = S^{3/2}$ . For entries in  $A'_d B$ , each of them can be obtained by multiplying at most  $\sqrt{S}$  elements in  $W$ , since each row in  $A'_d$  has at most  $\sqrt{S}$  elements in  $W$ . Therefore, in any  $S$  entries of  $A'_d B$ , there are at most  $S \cdot \sqrt{S} = S^{3/2}$  terms that can be obtained by multiplying elements in  $W$ .  $\square$

By Theorem 6.1 and Lemma 6.1, we have the following result.

**Corollary 6.2.** For the ordinary matrix-matrix multiplication algorithm for multiplying  $m \times k$  and  $k \times n$  matrices,

$$Q \cdot \sqrt{S} = \Omega(mkn).$$

## 7. Lower Bounds for Products of Graphs

As demonstrated in Sections 4 and 5, one can establish lower bounds on  $Q$  by proving upper bounds on the size of any vertex set that has a dominator set of size at most  $S$ . This is equivalent to proving lower bounds on

$D(n) =$  the minimum size of a dominator set for any vertex set having no less than  $n$  vertices.

In this section we show that lower bounds on  $D(n)$  for the product of two graphs can be obtained from lower bounds on  $D(n)$  for individual graphs. (See, for example, [3] for the definition of the product of two graphs.) Let  $G_1 \times G_2$  be the product of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ . A vertex  $(v_1, v_2) \in G_1 \times G_2$  is defined to be an input (or output) of  $G_1 \times G_2$  if  $v_1$  is an input of  $G_1$  or  $v_2$  is an input of  $G_2$ , (or, respectively,  $v_1$  is an output of  $G_1$  and  $v_2$  is an output of  $G_2$ .) Of course  $D(n)$  depends on the graph on which it defines; we use  $D_1(n)$ ,  $D_2(n)$  and  $D(n)$  to distinguish the case when the graph is  $G_1$ ,  $G_2$  and  $G$  respectively.

**Lemma 7.1.** If  $f$  is a positive function such that  $f(x)/x$  is non-increasing,  $\sum a_i \geq T_1 T_2$ , and  $0 \leq a_i \leq T_2$ , then

$$\sum f(a_i) \geq T_1 f(T_2).$$

**Proof:**

$$\sum f(a_i) \geq \sum a_i f(T_2) / T_2 \geq T_1 f(T_2).$$

□

**Theorem 7.1. (The Production Theorem for Dominators)**

If  $D_i(n) = \Omega(d_i(n))$  where  $d_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , is a positive, non-decreasing function such that  $d_i(x)/x$  is non-increasing, then

$$D(n_1 n_2) = \Omega(\min\{n_1 \cdot d_2(n_2), n_2 \cdot d_1(n_1)\}).$$

**Proof:** Let  $W$  be a subset in  $V_1 \times V_2$  of size  $n_1 n_2$ . Define

$$U_2 = \text{the set of vertices } p_2 \text{ in } V_2 \text{ for which } |W \cap (V_1 \times \{p_2\})| \geq n_1,$$

and

$$U'_2 = V_2 - U_2.$$

Clearly, we have  $|U_2| \leq n_2$  giving

$$|W \cap (\{p_1\} \times U_2)| \leq n_2, \quad (5)$$

and for  $p \in U'_2$ ,

$$|W \cap (V_1 \times \{p_2\})| < n_1. \quad (6)$$

One of the following two cases must hold.

Case 1.  $|W \cap (V_1 \times U_2)| \geq n_1 n_2 / 2$ .

Let  $p_1$  be any vertex in  $V_1$ . Any dominator set for  $W \cap (\{p_1\} \times V_2)$  is of size at least  $d_2(|W \cap (\{p_1\} \times V_2)|)$ . Thus the size of any dominator set for  $W$  satisfies:

$$D(n_1 n_2) \geq \sum_{p_1 \in V_1} d_2(|W \cap (\{p_1\} \times V_2)|).$$

Since  $U_2$  is a subset of  $V_2$  and  $d_2$  is a non-decreasing function, we have

$$D(n_1 n_2) \geq \sum_{p_1 \in V_1} d_2(|W \cap (\{p_1\} \times U_2)|).$$

By the definition of Case 1,

$$\sum_{p_1 \in V_1} |W \cap (\{p_1\} \times U_2)| \geq n_1 n_2 / 2. \quad (7)$$

By Lemma 7.1, it follows from (5) and (7) that

$$\sum_{p_1 \in V_1} d_2(|W \cap (\{p_1\} \times U_2)|) \geq n_1 \cdot d_2(n_2) / 2,$$

implying

$$D(n_1 n_2) \geq n_1 \cdot d_2(n_2) / 2.$$

Case 2.  $|W \cap (V_1 \times U'_2)| > n_1 n_2 / 2$ .

Let  $p_2$  be any vertex in  $V_2$ . Any dominator set for  $W \cap (V_1 \times \{p_2\})$  is of size at least  $d_1(|W \cap (V_1 \times \{p_2\})|)$ . Thus the size of any dominator set for  $W$  satisfies:

$$D(n_1 n_2) \geq \sum_{p_2 \in V_2} d_1(|W \cap (V_1 \times \{p_2\})|).$$

Since  $U'_2$  is a subset of  $V_2$ , we have

$$D(n_1 n_2) \geq \sum_{p_2 \in U'_2} d_1(|W \cap (V_1 \times \{p_2\})|).$$

By the definition of Case 2,

$$\sum_{p_2 \in U'_2} |W \cap (V_1 \times \{p_2\})| \geq n_1 n_2 / 2. \quad (8)$$

By Lemma 7.1, it follows from (6) and (8) that

$$\sum_{p_2 \in U'_2} d_1(|W \cap (V_1 \times \{p_2\})|) \geq n_2 \cdot d_1(n_1) / 2,$$

implying

$$D(n_1 n_2) \geq n_2 \cdot d_1(n_1) / 2.$$

□

Let  $L_1 = \{V, E\}$  be a directed line where  $V = \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ , and  $E = \{(i, i+1) \mid i = 1, 2, \dots, m-1\}$ , with unique input "1" and output "m." We have  $D_{L_1}(n) = 1$  for any  $n \leq m$ . See Figure 7-1.

Let  $L_2 = L_1 \times L_1$ . Then

$$D_{L_2}(n^2) = \Omega(\min\{1 \cdot n, 1 \cdot n\}),$$

giving

$$D_{L_2}(n^2) = \Theta(n).$$

Let  $L_3 = L_2 \times L_1$ . Then

$$D_{L_3}(n^3) = \Omega(\min\{n \cdot n, n^2 \cdot 1\}),$$

giving

$$D_{L_3}(n^3) = \Theta(n^2).$$

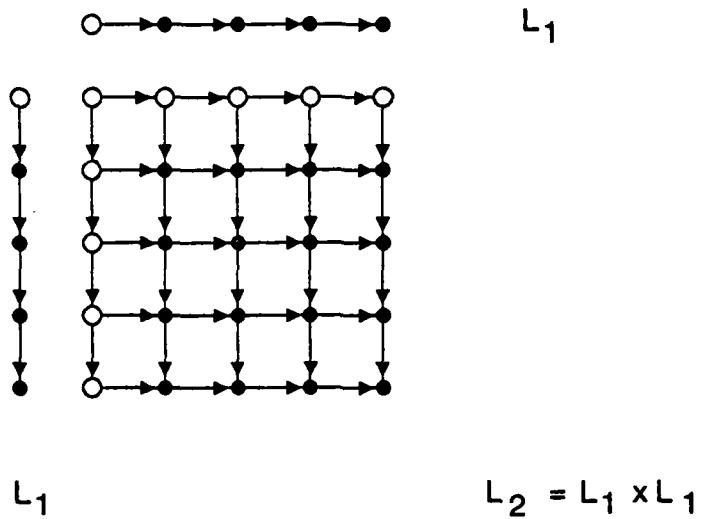


Figure 7-1: The product of two directed lines, where each "o" represents an input.

Let  $L_d = L_1 \times \dots \times L_1$ , that is,  $L_d$  is the product of  $d L_1$ 's. Then similarly,

$$D_{L_d}(n^d) = \Theta(n^{d-1}). \quad (9)$$

**Corollary 7.1.** For the product  $L_d$  with  $d \geq 2$ ,

$$Q \cdot S^{1/(d-1)} = \Omega(m^d).$$

**Proof:** By (9), the maximum size of any vertex set that has a dominator set of size at most  $S$  is  $O(S^{d/(d-1)})$ . Since there are a total of  $m^d$  vertices in  $L_d$ , we have

$$P(S) = \Omega(m^d / S^{d/(d-1)}),$$

by which the Corollary follows from Lemma 3.1. □

We have a similar product theorem for separators of a graph. For the special case  $L_d$ , bounds on the sizes of minimum separators have been established by A. L. Rosenberg [9].

## 8. Summary and Concluding Remarks

To compare I/O requirements for different algorithms, we propose the use of the following measure. The *decomposability factor*  $\lambda(S)$  of an algorithm or graph  $G = (V, E)$  is defined to be the ratio between the *sequential time* of the algorithm, that is  $|V|$ , and the minimum I/O time  $Q$  when assuming  $S$  red pebbles are used. Thus,

$$Q \cdot \lambda(S) = |V|.$$

For a given algorithm,  $|V|$  is fixed. We see that the larger the  $\lambda(S)$  is, the less the I/O is required. A summary of results of this paper on specific algorithms or graphs, expressed in terms of bounds on  $\lambda(S)$ , is as follows:

Algorithms or Graphs	$\lambda(S)$
Matrix-vector multiplication (ordinary algorithm)	$\Theta(S)$
Odd-even transposition sorting network	$\Theta(S)$
Matrix-matrix multiplication (ordinary algorithm)	$\Theta(\sqrt{S})$
$L_d$ , ( $d \geq 2$ )	$\Theta(S^{1/(d-1)})$
FFT	$\Theta(\log S)$
Snake-like directed mesh	$\Theta(1)$

It is also possible to establish upper bounds on  $\lambda(S)$  for a class of algorithms for solving a given problem. For example, it has been shown recently that for *any* sorting algorithm based on the decision tree model,  $\lambda(S) = O(\log S)$  [10].

The problem of establishing bounds on  $\lambda(S)$  is closely related to several other graph partitioning problems. We intend to work on some of these partitioning problems in the future, and show how they are related to the I/O complexity problem addressed in this paper.

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